

*In the Claims:*

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1. (Amended) A material comprising:

a nonwoven web comprising a plurality of substantially continuous fibers having a z-direction orientation and forming a plurality of loops between both x-y plane surfaces of the nonwoven web.

2. (Amended) A lofty material comprising:

a nonwoven web comprising a plurality of substantially continuous fibers,

the web being a lofted web with x, y and z dimensions, with x being the machine direction, y being the cross machine direction and z being the loft direction;

the web having first and second major surfaces in x-y planes and spaced apart in the z direction;

the continuous fibers being folded to form loops extending in the z direction, the loops defining open spaces within the web, and

the loops combining to form a material with a succession of channels spaced along the machine direction, each channel running in the cross machine direction.

3.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including each loop having at least one of a leading or trailing edge bonded to an adjacent loop leading or trailing edge to thereby hold its z-direction shape.

4.(Amended) The material according to Claim 3 wherein the leading and trailing edges of one loop are bonded together.

5.(Amended) The material according to Claim 3 wherein the leading and trailing edges of one loop are bonded together and bonded to the trailing and leading edges of the adjacent loops, respectively.


6.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including each loop being substantially elliptically shaped in cross section between the major surfaces.

7.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the loops are oriented off the orthogonal z- axis and are unidirectional.

8.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the loops are oriented off the orthogonal z- axis and are multi-directional.

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11.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the channels being randomly spaced in the machine direction.

 12.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the channels being regularly spaced in the machine direction.

13.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the channels being of random length in the cross machine direction.

14.(Amended) The material according to Claim 2 further including: the channels being of regular length in the cross machine direction.

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 39.(Amended) A personal care absorbent article comprising:  
a nonwoven web comprising a plurality of substantially continuous fibers having a z-direction orientation and forming a plurality of loops between both x-y plane surfaces of the nonwoven web.

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41.(Amended) A filtration material comprising: a nonwoven web comprising a plurality of substantially continuous fibers having a z-direction orientation and forming a plurality of loops at at least one surface of the nonwoven web.